

An Account of the Penitent Behaviour, Last Speech and Confession OF Captain Charles Walsingham, WHO BEING

Found Guilty the Last Sessions at the OLD-BAILY of Wilful Murther, was Executed at Tyburn on Friday, June 14. 1689. with all the Circumstances that attended his Pious and Exemplar Departure out of this Life, into an Eternal State.

Captain Charles Walsingham having taken his Tryal at the Sessions-House in the Old-Baily, upon Three Indictments. The First, for killing one Mr. Carr on the 28th of December last, by giving him several mortal Bruises. The Second, for killing John Stoner, by giving him a mortal Wound with a Rapier in the Belly on the 29th of March last. And the Third, for killing John Harbin on the 28th of May, 1688. by giving him a mortal Wound with a Rapier under the Armpit, &c. Upon this being found Guilty of Wilful Murther, and Sentence of Death passing upon him, he was conveyed back to Newgate, where, for a time, he continued not much sensible of the deplorable Condition he was in; but divers Eminent Ministers using spiritual Applications to soften the Hardness of his Heart, he grew more and more affected, closing with their Advice and Counsel, and in a short time a wonderful Change visibly appeared. And although he expected nothing less than to dye on the 31 of May, when the other Nine Prisoners suffered: Yet to afford him a larger space of Repentance, to make his Peace and Reconcilement with Heaven, Their Majesties were Graciously pleased to allow him a Reprieve till this Day, when, about Eleven of the Clock in the Morning, he was brought in a Cart to Tyburn, the place of Execution, and there accompanied by Three Ministers of the Church of England, and another Gentleman, who came to console him in his last Exigency and Passage to another Life, when, (before the Executioner had unbound him, the Sheriffs Officers having charge to take care of this Body, as to its being delivered to his Friends in order to its Interment) Mr. Wall, one of the Ministers, asked him, *How he found himself as to the settlement of his mind for Death, and a future Estate?* Pointing to the Beam, and bidding him look upon that, which in a short time would be instrumental in sending him into Eternity, to appear before the great God, the Judge of all the Earth, from whom no Secrets are hid. And then proceeded to exhort him to a true and sincere Repentance, *That his great and manifold Sins might find a place for Pardon and Forgiveness; And that he, as wick as he was, by sinning against so much light and knowledge, might be washed and freed from his crying Sins, in the Blood, and through the Merits of Jesus Christ, desiring him to bear up in his Afflictions, and in his Sufferings, own his Villanies, and give Glory to God, proceeding fervently to pray, that God of his infinite Mercies and Compassion towards Sinners, would look upon and strengthen him, to bear patiently the Death he was about to suffer.*

After these and the like Expressions and Prayers, he earnestly desired the Ministers of the People; and the Ministers read sundry Comfortable Expressions suitable to the sad Occasion, out of the Common Prayer Book, &c. And then desired him to unburthen his Conscience, and not conceal anything that lay upon his Mind, or might hinder him from looking up with a steadfast Faith, and Assurance in God's Mercy, through Jesus Christ. To which, with some Sighs, he answered in general terms, *That he had been a great Sinner, and had been much carried away by Evil Company, desiring the Spectators to look upon him as a deplorable Spittacle of God's*

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Justice, and to take Warning by him as being cut off in the Flower of his Youth, hope he might be an Example to them and others, how they went on in a course of sinning.

Being after this, and a Prayer made for strengthening him, and the Implored God's Mercy towards his Precious and Immortal Soul, demanded, if he had any more satisfaction to give the People, as to his Life, Conversation, and Penitence, he desired a Paper might be taken out of his Pocket, saying, *That was all he thought fit to leave behind him*; and not being capable of reading it with an audible Voice by reason of the Faintness his condition had reduced him to, Mr. Wells read it. The Heads and Substance of which was, *viz.*

That he did heartily and unfeignedly acknowledge his many and heinous Transgressions against God and Man, and was fully Convicted of the danger of the smallest Sin, but that he had been guilty of many Sins, and drawn away others to commit the like, but begged hearty Pardon of God, and all that he had injured, hoping they all, that heard his being brought to a shameful and ignominious Death by the Just Judgment of the Almighty's Sufferance, would walk more circumspectly, and apply their time to make their Peace, before they were hurried out of the World, desiring God would open their Eyes and turn their Hearts; begging Pardon of those he had injur'd by shedding Innocent Blood, Imploring it might not be laid to his Charge. And that he had Blessed God that he had given him a time to Repent, when he had hurried others out of the World, without any such space or opportunity; desiring the Auditors to make Good of the precious opportunity put into their hands, lest some of them might be in like manner carried out of the World, without time to Repent. Praying therein for the King and Queen's Majesties by Name; as also for the Welfare, Settlement, and Tranquillity of the Nation, desiring God to Bless the CHURCH of ENGLAND, of whom he confessed himself a Member, and concluded the Paper with a Pious and hearty Prayer, &c.

The Paper being read, he was Prayed with, and desired to forgive all People that had any ways injured him, and ask Forgiveness of those he had injured, which he did with an audible Voice, and then proceeded to make a Confession of his Faith in the Apostles Creed. After this several Passages were again repeated out of the Common Prayer, and in consideration he stood upon the brink of the Grave, and might truly be termed a Dying Man, the Prayer used at the Visitation of the Sick was read, with other Consolation; and being subject to some little Fainting under this great Tryal, he was supported a little by a Person that was in the Cart to assist, yet the Minister at his Instance, declared that it was not through the fear of Death, for his Life having been all along Martial, the fear of Death, as it was merely so, was beneath him, but the sense of his Sins had broken him under the sense of God's Wrath and Displeasure, which he might justly fear, did not the greatness of his Mercy interpose. However, there was hopes of Pardon and Salvation to Sinners, upon a true and sincere Repentance, minding him of *Mary Magdalen* and others; and after divers other Prayers for confirming him in this his great Extremity, he kissed and embraced the Ministers, and prepared himself for Death, not desiring a Psalm, tho' it was offered, lest it might discompose him, as being now solemnly fixed upon Thoughts of Eternity, and appearing before the Dreadful Tribunal, &c. Being bid by one of the Ministers to say at his going off, *Lord into thy hands I recommend my Spirit, Lord receive my Soul*; he continued so to do after the Cap was drawn over his Eyes, till the Cart drew away.

In Summ, his Penitence and Behaviour was such, that he drew Tears from most of the Eyes of the Spectators. As for his Quality, he was a Gentleman born, and had very good Education, giving himself up to Martial Exploits, consulting his too much Passion and Rashness had been the occasion of the Bloodshed, without any Malice or Design. He was cut off in the Flower of his Age, not exceeding Thirty Years, being a very proper and comely Person, and his Corps was put in a Mourning Coffin, and carried back in a Coach, in order to his Interment.

Licensed June 14th 1689.